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# News Release ~ Communiqué

## Contract to build a new Visitor Reception Centre at Port au Choix National Historic Site

ST. JOHN'S, NFLD., JULY 19, 1995 - Pittman's Enterprises Ltd. has been awarded a contract to build a new Visitor Reception Centre at Port au Choix National Historic Site. The announcement was made today by the Honourable Brian Tobin, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, MP for Humber-St. Barbe-Baie Verte, and the Honourable David Dingwall, Minister responsible for the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA), on behalf of the Honourable Michel Dupuy, Minister of Canadian Heritage.

The facility will be constructed at a location on the Point Riche Peninsula overlooking beautiful Ingornachoix Bay. Mr. Tobin said the new 480 square-metre centre will better match the calibre of the historic site allowing for the proper interpretation of its themes. Port au Choix has been the site of human occupation for the past 4,200 years. Since 1968, archaeologists have unearthed 100 skeletons and more than 10,000 artifacts from the Maritime Archaic Indians, the Groswater Eskimo culture and the Dorset Eskimos. The area also formed part of the French Shore from 1713 to 1904.

The contract totals $829,663.

The new centre will replace the temporary structure which has been used since 1970. Despite its small size and poor location, some 8,500 people visit the Centre annually to learn more about the historical significance of the area. Mr. Tobin added that the new facility is expected to generate much more visitation and will help Port au Choix take its rightful place as an important attraction on the Viking Trail.

Construction is expected to begin within the next two weeks, and will conclude in time for the 1997 visitor season. The new facility will contain a reception area, craft shop, exhibit area and a multi-purpose audiovisual theatre with live theatre capability.

Development of the facility was made possible by federal contributions from the Department of Canadian Heritage - Parks Canada and ACOA, in the context of the Viking Trail Tourism Strategy.

Funding for this project was provided for in the February 1995 federal budget and is therefore built into the existing fiscal framework. This initiative is an example of how this government is prioritizing its spending so that it can better serve Canadians by making efficient use of their tax dollars.

Information:

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